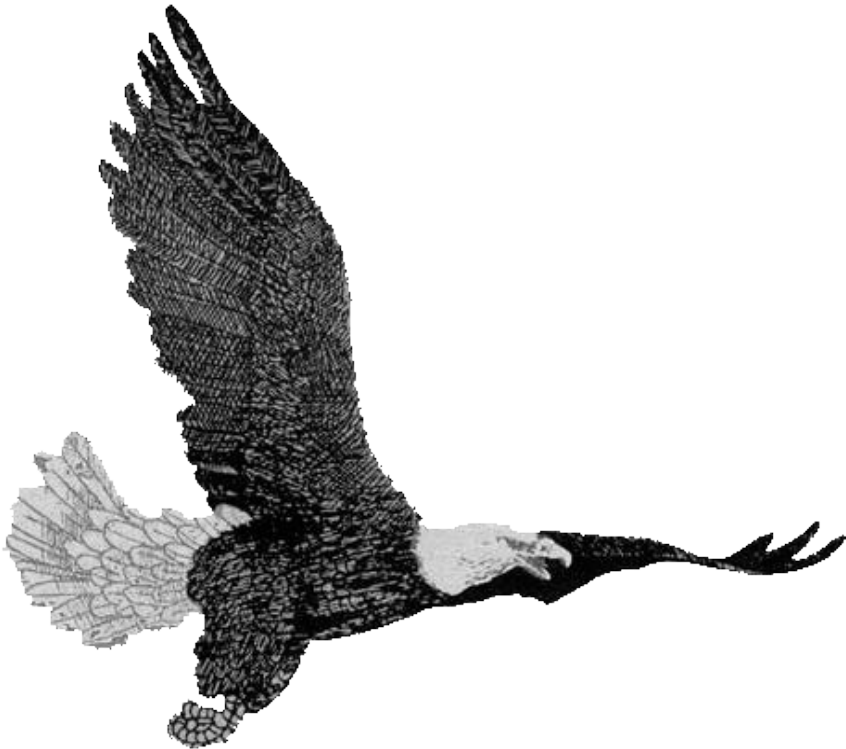


THIRD YEAR

EPISTLES III

Letters to the Church

TEXTBOOK



**DELIVERANCE BIBLE
INSTITUTE**

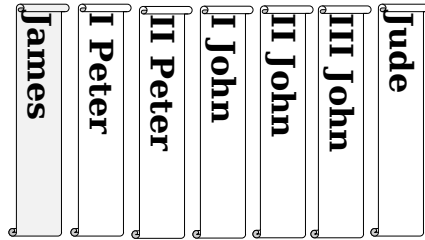
Portland, Maine, USA

Epistles III

Letters to the Church

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James



I. The Writer of the Epistle of James

James 1:1 "James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..." *Servant*: "a bond man; in subjection; a voluntary slave" (Only the will of God will be performed.)

This simple signature tells us the writer was well known to his readers and needed not lengthy introduction. He was a man highly esteemed among them, one who stood in a position of recognized spiritual authority, and one whom they were obliged to obey. There are four men named James' who lived around the NT era, but "James the Brother of the Lord" stands as the most probable writer of this epistle.

A. James the son of Zebedee & brother of John. This man was the most prominent "James" in the gospels. He was one of the "sons of thunder," originally a fisherman with John (his brother), along with Peter and Andrew. He became a disciple of Jesus. He was one of the three inner disciples and was later martyred by Herod Agrippa I, as recorded in Acts 12:2 (A.D. 44). There is not much chance that this James could have written this letter before he was killed, and there is no tradition arguing that he did.

B. James the son of Alphaeus, another disciple. Very little is known about this James, the brother of Matthew (Levi). He was another disciple of our Lord, but again, there is no hint that he is the one who wrote this epistle. Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13

C. James the father of Judas the disciple (Judas Thaddaeus). This man is even more obscure. Not a likely candidate.

D. James the brother of Jude & half-brother of our Lord. Also known as James the Less, This James appears to be the writer of the epistle of James. He is not so identified, but much about his character is revealed that is in keeping with what is known about him. This

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choice is also in keeping with tradition which tells us that he remained in Jerusalem and that Peter, James, & John chose James, the brother of Jesus to be the pastor of the Jerusalem church after the ascension of Christ (cf. Clement of Alexandria). The fact that he does not so identify himself (as our Lord's brother) may be an indication of his humility, but it also reveals the standing and personal authority he had over his readers. He was a man well known and highly esteemed in the new Christian community. "James, a servant of God and of Jesus Christ" was sufficient identification for them

James is first introduced in Matthew 13:55 as one of our Lord's brethren. John 7:5 relates the sad fact that even as late as six months before the crucifixion (the feast of tabernacles), James was still an unbeliever.

I Cor. 15:7 tells us that in the midst of the resurrection appearances of Christ, "He was seen of James." A little later, a number of people are recorded as meeting for prayer with the apostles in the upper room, as they awaited Pentecost; among them were "Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brethren."

In Gal. 1:18-19 Paul is describing the events of his life following his three years in Arabia after his conversion; at this time he spent two weeks with Peter in Jerusalem and also met another important church leader, "James the Lord's brother." By the time of Acts 12:17 James was evidently already a leader in the Jerusalem church, for Peter, released from prison, asks that the news be reported to James. In Acts 15:13 James is the one presiding at the great council of Jerusalem which met to decide the important question of the relationship of Christianity to the Mosaic law; his leadership role is evident.

In Gal. 2:9 Paul refers to him as a "pillar" of the church—equal to Peter and John. So far James has come from his unbelief! The remaining references to James (Gal. 2:12-13 & Acts 21:18-19) reveal his zeal for the Mosaic law. He was evidently in firm agreement with the decision of the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:13-19), but he was also careful to keep peace between the Gentile believers and the more "legalistic" Jewish Christians (verse 20). Perhaps he himself (as Peter, cf. Gal. 2:11) carried this matter too far; this does not minimize his standing as an apostle, however (Gal. 1:19). (Note: At least four other men beside the original 11 have apostolic status: Matthias [Acts 1:26], Barnabas [Acts 14:4, 14], Paul, and James.) He was "nicknamed" "James the Just" because of his recognized piety, and was said to have "knees like those of camels" because of his much time spent in prayer. Josephus records that James was martyred during an uprising against Christians while Ananus was high priest in 62 A.D.

He was elected to the oversight of the churches of Jerusalem; and was the writer of the Epistle ascribed to James At the age of

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ninety-four he was beat and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller's club.

Details of James the Less' martyrdom are found in the writings of Josephus, Eusebius, and Jerome. When Festus, the governor of Judea, died, Nero replaced him with Albinus. About the same time, Herod Agrippa II replaced the Jewish high priest Joseph with Ananus. After Festus died and before Albinus had arrived in Judea to replace him, the new high priest decided to pressure James the Less to deny that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. Ananus was taking advantage of a lapse in leadership at the end of Festus' reign. Similar circumstances at the end of Pilate's reign over Judea led to the stoning of Saint Stephen.

The Jewish high priest asked James to stand on the Temple wall and speak against Jesus to the crowds which had gathered in preparation for the Passover. James instead spoke in favor of Jesus as the Christ; many heard him and many were converted. So the Jewish religious leaders threw James down from the Temple wall. Yet he did not die from the fall, so they began to stone him. Still he did not die from the stoning, so a man took a fuller club (used to beat out clothing) and clubbed him to death. In this way died James the Less, one of Twelve Apostles and the leader of the Church at Jerusalem for 30 years.

II. The Purpose of Writing

A. Address all Believers

"To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." 1:1
To the brethren--including the entire church of Jewish Christians.
1:1; 1:16; 2:1,5,14; 3:1; 4:11; 5:7,9,10,19

B. Encourage Perfection in Christian Character

The epistle of James is a manual of instructions for holy living and a practical guide to Christian life and conduct. As a guidebook for true religion, James gives a pattern showing the characteristics of true faith.

C. Warn of Vices

In encouraging the perfection of Christian character, James warns of many vices: fatalism, fanaticism, formalism, favoritism, falsehood, fierce spirit, foul talk and evil speaking, and fearlessness and boasting to name a few.

1. **Fatalism**, which threw its sins on God

James 1:13—*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God...*

2. **Fanaticism**, which, under the cloak of religious Zeal, was tearing Jerusalem in pieces, many men do not have real convictions of their own and they try to live up to the standards of others and find themselves frustrated.

James 1:20—*For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*

3. **Formalism** consists in washings and outward ceremonies, whereas he reminds them that true religion consists in active love and purity.

James 1:27—*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

4. **Favoritism** - Respect of persons. James 2:1-18

5. **Falsehood**, which had made words and oaths play-things (3:2-12)

6. **Fierce spirit**, Friendship with the world. Partisanship

If you're under the influence of a strong false view, fierce, unkind and contemptuous spirit, "ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts." Attempting or pretending to defend true religion, and to boast of your works or success in silencing an enemy; is not pure religion, nor true wisdom, and to profess either without giving God the full Glory is to lie against the truth.

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James 3:14—*But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.*

7. Foul Talk or Evil Speaking

James 4:11—*Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

8. Fearlessness and Boasting

James 4:16—*But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.*

D. Instruct in Patience

The great lesson which he teaches them as Christians is patience, and the ground of their patience is that the coming of the Lord is drawing nigh. We need to have full Revelation of God's Word that we may understand God's Eternal Purpose. Patience...

- in trial (1:2)
- in good works (1:22-25)
- under provocation (3:17)
- though treated with fraud (5:4)
- under oppression (5:7)
- under persecution (5:10)

James 5:7-9—*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*

E. The book of James is not merely informative but inspirational, as well.

The object of the writer is to inspire men to enforce the practical duties of the Christian life. In James 1:2-12 James gives five urgent requirements of faith and in so doing he illustrates faith's spiritual vitality. WE NEED FAITH; without it we will die. In order for faith to remain true and alive it must be added to. Faith can only be added to as it is exercised. Faith is to always be in action, not just in motion doing something, but doing the Will of God.

III. Theme & Key Text

A. Theme: True faith produces good works.

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1:3,4,25,27; 2:18,20,22,26; 3:17,18; 4:6-11,17; 5:7-9,12,15,17-20

B. Key Text: James 2:17,18

James 2:17,18—*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

IV. Outline

GENERAL TOPICS	VERSES
A. The trying of your faith.	1:1-27
B. The showing of your faith.	1:22-3:18
C. The fruit of your faith.	1:5,17-18; 2:5,23; 3:13-18; 5:16
D. Warnings.	4:1-5:20
E. Exhortations	1:2,12,18,25,27; 2:1,18; 3:1,17,18; 4:4,6-12,17; 5:7,8,9,17, 18
F. Instructions	1:3,5-8,13-15; 2:1-13;14-26; 3:1- 18; 4:1-5,7-11,13-16; 5:12,13-16

A. The Trying of Your Faith (Joy and Patience)
James 1:1-27

1. There are five urgent requirements of faith: Joy, Patience, Wisdom, Unwavering Mind and Love.

- **Joy.** Count it a joy to serve God even when your faith is being tried. We can have a Joy that will rejoice in the Promise rather than react to the problem. Where Christ is working there is Joy. James 1:2 "Count it all joy" 5:10; 4:9 Joy is the results of a life lived in the Spirit. Everything could be against you and you have Joy.

- **Patience.** Know that the trial is to work Patience so that we press in, press through and press on. Patience is a sign your faith is working. Patience has its place with Faith and Joy unto Perfection. Where Christ is working there is Patience.

James 1:3—*The trying of your faith worketh patience.*

James 1:4—*Let patience have her perfect work.*

- **Wisdom.** Ask for Wisdom and it shall be given. We are given the Unction to speak and act wisely in the hour of trial. Where Christ is working there is wisdom.

James 1:5—*If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God...*

- **Unwavering mind.** We need a humble mind that will always depend on the Lord. A faith that refuses to respond to the surging billows of doubt in the hour of trial. Endurance has its place with Faith and Love through every trial. Where Christ is working there is endurance (1:12) with an unwavering mind.

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James 1:6—...*nothing wavering*...

James 1:8—*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

- **Love.** Pure Love never fails to make faith work perfectly.

Faith and love are content with God's dealings in the hour of trial.

Where Christ is working there is Love.

James 1:12—*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

James 1:2—*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

2. There are diverse temptations and trials. 1:2

a. Faith tried by the Word. Ps. 105:19; Jer. 23:29; I Cor. 3:13; I Peter 1:7,2

Promises (1:12) /Father of lights (1:17) /Word of Truth (1:18) /engrafted Word (1:21,23) /The Perfect Law of liberty (1:25) /Gospel: pure & unspotted religion /Wisdom from Above (3:17)

God tests and never tempts (James 1:12-13). God tests to prove our faith, correct our conduct and to perfect our character.

God allows temptation (James 1:2, 12-13; 2:5; 5:13; I Cor. 10:13).

God allows temptation as we need it to make us feel our need to pray.

REFERENCE	WHY?
Psalms 119:67	Because we didn't listen directly to the Word of God.
James 1:14	For the unbeliever to see his faults and weaknesses.
I Cor. 3:13	The fiery trial reveals to others who you really are.
I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 2:14	God gives victory and causes Triumph.
Matt. 4:1-4; Rev. 12:6; 13-16	The wilderness experience is a feeding time spiritually.

God rewards those that truly love Him. James 1:12

b. Faith Tried by Afflictions, Hardships, Tests, and Trials.
Affliction is any condition that produces suffering or pain.

1) There are two types of affliction:

- THE FIRST is designed to judge sin (Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 24:29; Romans 2:9)

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- THE SECOND is designed to purify and perfect the believer (James 1:2-4; 5:13; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:18 II Thess. 1:4-7; Isaiah 48:10; 63:9; Hosea 5:15; II Chron. 33:12; I Peter 5:9,10).

2) In both cases you that are spiritual must be a help to those that are afflicted (James 1:17; Gal. 6:1; I Cor. 2:15).

3) How to pray in affliction.

INSTRUCTION	REFERENCE
Learn to pray through alone. (learn to believe God for yourself, but there is strength and victory when everyone works together)	James 5:13; Isaiah 51:1,2; 40:31; Psalm 34:19; 40:1,2
You can't pray away the night of sorrow, but you can endure.	James 1:12; 5:11; Hebrews 12:7
Let God change you inside while you praise Him through the trial.	James 5:13b—sing
Pray that you enter not into temptation.	Luke 22:40,46;
Watch you therefore and pray always.	Luke 21:36
Three examples to follow when suffering affliction are given by James.	5:10 (The prophets); 5:11 (Job); 5:17 (Elijah)

c. Examples of those falling into temptation.

Those scattered abroad. 1:1
Falling into temptations without joy. 1:2
Impatient. 1:3,4
Unwise. 1:5
Wavering. 1:6
Double-minded. 1:8
Low degree. 1:9
Rich man fading away in his ways. 1:10-11

Drawn away and enticed. 1:14
Those in error. 1:16
Those with wrath. 1:20
Hearers only. 1:22-25
Those with unbridled tongue. 1:26
Defiled and spotted by the world. 1:27
Professors of faith without good works. 2:18

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B. The Showing of Your Faith. (Wisdom and Meekness) James
1:22-3:18

Jas. 2:18—*I will shew you my faith by my works.*

Because the kingdom of God is not a natural kingdom (Luke 17:20) our faith is justified in the eyes of those that behold our good works. *Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10*

I Pt. 2:12—...*by your good works which they shall behold , glorify God...*

Gal. 5:6; I Thess. 1:3; 2:13; Phil. 2:12-13 ; I Jn. 3:18, 23-24; Titus 3:8; 1:13-14; 2:11-14

1. Your faith without good works...

will not profit

James 2:14-16

will not live

James 2:17,20,26

will face the

judgment

Revelation 2:12

2. Your Faith receives the engrafted Word of God with meekness unto perfection. *James 1:17,18,21; 2:18-22; I Peter 1:9-11,13-17,22,23*

a. Abraham (2:21,22) was justified by works and his Faith was made perfect by works. *I Peter 1:9; Colossians 2:10; 4:12*

b. Rahab (2:25) was justified by works.

c. Elijah (5:17-20) saw the need of the nation and did what God told him to do. *I Kings 18:1 "Go shew thyself..." 18:15 "today"*

3. Your faith with wisdom.

James 1:5—*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

James 3:1—*My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. (finding fault harshly and unwisely)*

Proverbs 2:6—*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.;*

Ecclesiastes 2:26—*For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

Psalms 105:22 (Teach wisdom)

James 3:17—*But the wisdom that is from above is first...*

- Pure 1:21, 27
- Peaceable 1:26; 3:1,2 (3:10,16)
- Gentle 2:8, 25

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- Easy to be entreated 2:21-23
- Full of mercy 2:13,15,16; 5:19-20
- Good fruits 3:18

4. Must constantly be produced. *Psalm 92:13,14; James 5:7; Phil. 1:11*

5. Must be grown only in good ground. *Matt. 13:8,23; Luke 8:8,15; Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 5:9-11*

- Without partiality 2:1,4 9; 4:11-12
 - Without hypocrisy 1;8,16,26;3:9-12;4:1-10,17
- C. The Fruit of Your Faith (Righteousness and Peace)
1:5, 17, 18; 2:5, 23; 3:13-18; 5:16

1. The trying of your faith worketh patience 1:3

2. Patience shows itself through faith and good works unto perfection. 1:4

3. The righteousness of God is revealed to us from faith to faith 2:23; 3:17 Rom.1:17; II Cor, 5:21; I Cor. 1:30

a. Producing a perfect man James 1:4; I Peter 5:10; Eph. 4:13; James 3:2

b. Producing a blessed man. 1:12, 25

c. Producing a patient man. 1:3,4; 5:10, 11

d. Producing a wise man. 1:5; 3:13, 17

e. Producing a saved soul. 1:21

f. Producing beloved brethren. 1:2, 16, 19

g. Producing a man of love 1:12, 27; 2:8

- Sacrificial love for people
- Unspotted love for God

h. Producing a righteous man 1:20; 2:21-23; 5:16

i. Producing the first fruits of His creatures 1:18; Phil. 3:14

Chief among his creatures; The first-fruits were the best of every kind to be offered to God, and were given as God's peculiar right and portion; thus the new creature is God's peculiar portion taken out of mankind, which being consecrated to God by a new birth, they ought to serve him with a new spirit, new heart and new thankfulness, as living under the highest obligations unto new obedience.

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4. The fruit of righteousness unto holiness (reproduces after its kind)

James 3:18—*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

Romans 6:16—... *to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are...*

Rom. 6:19—*I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

Rom. 6:22—*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

From faith to
righteousness unto
holiness

Obedience to the
word to good conduct
unto good character

Perfect faith to
perfect conduct unto
perfect character

Right character should always produce right conduct.

The proof of a man's faith is a manifestation of Christ's life.

Study Questions - James

1. What are the five urgent requirements of faith?

There are five urgent requirements of faith:
Joy, Patience, Wisdom, Unwavering Mind and Love.

2. Why does God test man?

God tests to prove our faith, correct our conduct and to perfect our character.

3. When does God allow temptation?

God allows temptation as we need it to make us feel our need to pray.

Because we didn't listen directly to the Word of God.
For the unbeliever to see his faults and weaknesses.
The fiery trial reveals to others who you really are.
God gives victory and causes Triumph.
The wilderness experience is a feeding time

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spiritually.

4. Who does God reward with the crown of life?
God rewards those that truly love Him. James
1:12

5. For what are the two types of affliction designed?
THE FIRST is designed to judge sin
THE SECOND is designed to purify and perfect the
believer

6. How is a man's faith justified before men?
"our faith is justified in the eyes of those that behold our
good works"

7. Describe what the wisdom from beneath is like?
"evil sensual and devilish"

8. Describe what the wisdom from above is like?
James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good
fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

9. What is the fruit of your faith?
The Fruit of Your Faith (Righteousness and Peace)

10. What is the proof of a man's faith?
**The proof of a man's faith is a manifestation of Christ's
life.**

Bonus: Expound on James 5:7-8 in light of Joel 2:23-29

I Peter

I. Writer: Peter an Apostle of Jesus Christ

II. The Purpose For Writing I Peter

1. To exhort and testify the revelation given to him
5:12
2. To fulfill the two commandments Lord gave
personally to him.
 - a. Strengthen the brethren
Luke 22:32 I Peter 5:10 II Peter 1:12

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4. Every believer is to be guarded by the power of God

I Peter 1:5

III. Theme

The TRUE Grace of God

I Peter :5:12

IV. The outline of I Peter

A. Salvation of the Believer

- (Romans 1:17)

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--Grace reigns through righteousness
(Romans 5:21)

--By Grace through Faith (Ephesians 2:8)

3:12--The eyes of the Lord are over the
Righteous

3:14--If ye suffer righteousness sake happy are
ye

3:18--"That He might bring us to God"

4:17-18--Or bring us to judgment

4:19: 1:5--Judge Him faithful and commit your
soul into His keeping, as you do well,
even though you suffer for it

2. The Word of God is the Source of our Salvation
 - a. The full inheritance is reserved in Heaven 1:4
 - b. The Power of God's Word is in the obedient
believer 1:5, 22
 - c. "It is written" 1:6, 11
 - d. "The Gospel is preached" 1:25, 12
 - e. The truth is revealed 1:5, 12-13, 20, 22-23
The Word of God revealed is seed producing
eternal life
 - f. The Truth vitally experienced
The true Grace of God working in the
believer's life
I Peter 1:2, 10, 13 2:2, 19, 20
3:7 4:10
5:5, 10, 12
 - (1). Faith—acting on the Word 1:21
 - (2). Hope—great expectation 1:3, 21
 - (3). Love—desire and effort for greater
demonstration more and more and
more
1:22; 4:8, 14
 - g. The truth vitally expressed 1:23, 25
 - (1). We never fail when obeying the Word
 - (a). The Word of the Lord Liveth
forever
 - (b). The Word of the Lord abideth
forever
 - (c) The Word of the Lord endureth
forever
 - (2). We fail only when we neglect His grace
that has been given to us 2:8, 10

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- last days
3. God's foreordained plan will be revealed in these
- a. End time deliverance
1:2, 4-17, 20 4:7, 17
(1). Initial 1:2, 18,19, 21,23 2:6, 25
3:18
(2). Progressive 1:2,3-5, 9, 13, 22; 2:1,2
- b. The Blood of Sprinkling
(1). I Peter 1:2
(2). Hebrews 9: 13, 19, 21
(3). Hebrews 10:22
(4). Hebrews 11:28
(5). Hebrews 12:24
(6). Exodus 12:7
(7). Exodus 2:48
(8). Leviticus 4:6
(9). Leviticus 8:15
(10). Numbers 19:4
- c. The inheritance of every obedient believer is
by revelation of Jesus Christ 1:4, 5, 12,13, 20
(1). Begotten 1:3
(2). Redeemed 1:18, 19
(3). Born again 1:23
(4). Be ye holy 1:15, 16
- B. Sanctification of the believer.
"Sanctification of the Spirit" 1:2
Sanctification is a separation from sin and a setting
apart unto God by the Spirit
1. Be obedient 1:2
 2. Greatly rejoicing 1:6
 3. Be ye holy 1:16
 4. Fear God
1:17
 5. Purify your soul by obeying the truth
1:22
 6. Love one another 1:22
 7. Put away all evil
2:1
 8. Grow up by desiring the pure milk of the Word
2:2
 9. Offer up spiritual sacrifices
2:5

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10. Show forth His excellent greatness
2:9
11. Abstain from fleshly lust that war against the
soul 2:11
12. Be honest and show good works
2:12
13. Live unto righteousness
2:24
14. Sanctify the Lord in your heart
3:15

C. The Submission of the believer

1. Submit yourself to God
5:5,6
2. Submit yourself to every ordinance of man
2:13
 - a. Government
2:13-17
 - b. Business
2:18-25
 - c. Marriage
3:1-7
 - d. Friendship
3:8-12; 5:5

D. The Suffering of the Believer 3:13-;

- 5:10
- 5:9,10
1. Trials 1:6,7; 2:19-23; 4:12,13,19;
"A season of heaviness"
 2. Sickness 2:24
"By Whose stripes ye were healed"
 3. Opportunity to witness 3:13-21;
"Give an answer to every man that asketh you
a reason of the hope that is in you"
- 4:13; 5:1,2

E. The Stewardship of the Believer 4:1,7 - 5:14

1. Having the mind of Christ 4:1
2. Have the love of God 4:8
3. Having the gifts of God 4:10
4. Having the ability which God gives 4:11
5. Having the glory of God revealed in your life
4:14; 5:1
6. Be steadfast 5:9, 12

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7. Salute 5:13
8. Greet ye one another with love and peace 5:14

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Study Questions - I Peter

1. What are the two commandments the Lord gave Peter?
2. What word is used in I Peter 1:5 that means to be guarded?
3. Read I Peter 1:5; Define end-time salvation by using other Scriptures show end-time salvation is already being revealed.
4. Give the theme of I Peter.
5. Write out the five major points of the outline.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
6. Explain your understanding of the God-head.
7. What is God's desire in relation to the overcoming Saints?
8. What is God looking for in us?
9. The Word of God revealed is _____ producing _____.
10. How does every obedient Believer receive his inheritance?
11. Define sanctification and give some examples of how it works in the Believer's life.
12. Memorize I Peter 5:10 and write it out verbatim.

II Peter

I. Writer: Peter a Servant and Apostle of Jesus Christ

Simon was his name. The name Peter was given to him by the Lord. The introduction shows his service and apostleship
Mat. 4:18; 10:2 Luke 6:14 Jn.1:40-42;21:15-17 Mat.16:16-18
 Acts 2:14 Mk. 3:16

II. The Purpose For Writing II Peter

A. To give a constant reminder

II Peter 1:8, 12-16; 2:21; 3:1-3, 5,8,11, 14, 17-18

B. Continue to fulfill the two general commands God gave to Him

1. Strengthen the brethren

Luke 22:32 I Peter 5:10 II Peter 1:12

a. Against attack from the inside

1.) False teaching and damnable heresies
2:1-8

2.) Scoffers walking after their own

lusts

3:3-5,17

2. Feed the flock of God. Jn. 21:15-17 IIPeter1:1-11

C. To show that every believer must totally acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in their life

II Peter 1:1-2; 16-18; 2:1,9,20; 3:2,15,18

D. To show the secrets of growing II Peter 1:3-8

E. To declare a more sure Word of Prophecy

II Peter 1:19-21

III. Theme

Knowing Christ and growing up in Him to be like Him.

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IV. The outline of II Peter

A. Knowing Christ and diligently making every effort to be like Him through faith.

Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Lord and is worthy of our total devotion. As Lord He is in complete control of our life. God is righteous in giving all, like precious faith.

1. The Gift of Knowledge 1:1-4
 - a. Servant- Apostle 1:1
 - b. Like precious faith 1:2
 - c. Through the Righteousness of God 1:1
 - d. Grace and Peace multiplied 1:2
 - e. Divine Power 1:3
"According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness."
 - f. Divine life. 1:3
 - g. Divine Promises 1:4
Over 30,000 promises are written in the Bible and they are all good for every believer.
 - h. Divine Nature. 1:4

2. The growth in knowledge 1:5-12

Once He gives you the revelation of Christ He makes you to exercise your faith in the knowledge you have been given.

- a. Giving all diligence add to your faith.
The Lord adds as you exercise your faith.
 - (1.) Virtue
 - (2.) Knowledge
 - (3.) Temperance
 - (4.) Patience
 - (5.) Godliness
 - (6.) Brotherly Kindness
 - (7.) Charity
- b. Give diligence to make your calling and election sure 1:10-11

3. The calling and the election of the believer.

- a. To life and godliness
 - 1.) Spiritual life must exist before there can be godliness.

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- 2.) Spiritual life is received from Jesus Christ the Lord by faith.
 - a.) Faith acknowledges Jesus Christ as Saviour.
 - b.) Faith acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - c.) Faith obtains what it acknowledges in Christ.
 - d.) Faith appropriates the promises.
- 3.) Spiritual life is by grace through faith based on right knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 4.) Spiritual life is rewarded with an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

counsel b. Ye do well to take heed 1:19--Timely

If any man will do His will he shall
know of the doctrine Jn 7:17
And ye shall know the Truth Jn.
8:32

For if these things be in you and
abound they make you. 1:8

For if you do these things ye shall never
fall. 1:10

If you know these things happy are ye if
you do them Jn. 13:17 Ps.
119:17-20

~GOAL~

Always expressing His person —
Exact representation of His very being

Be diligent that ye may be found of
Him in peace without spot and blameless
3:14

4. The Glory of the Knowledge 1:1-21
 - a. Servant of Jesus Christ
A slave totally possessed by his master

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A bond servant

Vowed to serve the rest of his life

1.) Apostle of Jesus Christ

A representative of Christ, sent

forth.

An ambassador for Christ.

The apostle progresses in all
power and authority of the One
who sent him.

2.) Called to be an apostle

3.) Peter answered the call for service

and

ministry setting an example

b. Grace and Peace multiplied in the
believer's life as faith is developed 1:2

c. Escape the corruption, pollution and
ignorance of this world 1:4 2:20 3:5

d. Fruitful, active and having good spiritual
vision seeing afar off 1:8,9

e. Partake of His divine nature 1:4

f. An election 1:10

h. Richly supplied with an abundant
entrance into the everlasting kingdom
1:11

i. The testimony of an apostle of Jesus
Christ as an eye witness to the truth
1:12-18

j. A glorious experience 1:19
When the daystar arises in your heart

k. A sure lamp. 1:19

1). A more sure Word of Prophecy

2). A light that shineth in a dark place

3). Holy men of God spoke as they
were moved upon by the Holy
Ghost.

4). True knowledge and True
prophecy

The Bible was not written by
human reasoning but by divine
revelation from the Holy Ghost.

B. Knowing Christ's judgment on those that do not make
every effort to be like Him 2:1-22

Key verses in chapter two: 2:1,9

1. Identifying the false

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- a. False prophets, False teachers, damnable heresies, denying the Lord, swift destruction 2:1
 - b. Pernicious ways, the way of truth evil spoken of. 2:2
 - c. Covetousness, feigned words, make merchandise of you, their judgment lingereth not, their damnation slumbereth not 2:3
 - d. Fallen angels 2:4
 - e. Spared not the old world before the flood 2:5
 - f. Sodom and Gomorrah 2:6-9
 - g. Self-willed 2:10-11
 - h. Natural brute beast. 2:12
 - i. Hypocrites 2:13
 - j. Eyes full of adultery 2:14
 - k. The way of Balaam. 2:15-16
 - l. Wells without water – died up. 2:17
 - m. Tempest driven clouds 2:17
 - n. Speak great swelling words of vanity, allure through the lust of the flesh, much wantonness, living in error 2:18
 - o. Servants of corruption 2:19
 - p. Brought into bondage 2:19
 - q. Again entangled and overcome 2:20
 - r. To turn from the Holy Commandment 2:21
 - s. The dog is turned to his own vomit 2:21
 - t. The sow wallowing in the mire 2:21
 - 2. It is better not to know the way of righteousness than to know and turn from it. 2:19-21
- C. Knowing concerning the beloved 3:1,8,14-15,17
- 1. Faith and knowledge with grace and righteousness.
 - a. Knowledge is the sphere for grace to work in our life 1:2
 - b. Knowledge is the way of truth 2:2
 - c. Knowledge is the way of righteousness 2:21
 - d. Knowledge is given as faith is obtained 1:1-2
 - 1.) Knowledge of his person, power, process, and eternal purpose
 - 2.) Knowledge-“exceeding great and precious promises” 1:4
 - “ By grace through faith” Eph. 2:8 1:1-2
 - a) Through faith
 - b) Through righteousness

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- c) Through Knowledge
- 3.) Knowledge stirs up the pure mind to increase your faith
 - 1:1; 5:12,13; 3:1,2
 - a.) Knowing is seeing by faith
 - (1.) Knowledge of God for spiritual life 1:1-9
 - (2.) Knowledge of the everlasting kingdom 1:10,11
 - (3.) The knowledge of God for us to be like His Son 1:12-21
 - (4.) The knowledge concerning His promises 3:1-18
- 2. Grace is given where right knowledge is applied 1:2
 - a. Grace is sufficient 2 Cor. 12:9
 - b. Grace is sovereign John 1:7
 - c. Grace is our source 2 Cor. 9:8
- 3. The beloved's action
 - a. Be mindful 3:1-7
 - b. Be not ignorant 3:8-11
 - c. Be diligent 3:11-14
 - d. Beware 3:15-18
 - e. Peter's diligence. 1:15 Paul's wisdom 3:15
- 4. The Beloved's warning 3:17
 - a. Moral corruption 1:1-14
 - b. Doctrinal pollutions 1:15, 2:1-22
 - c. Steadfast among the error of the wicked 3:1-18
- 5. The beloved's knowledge
 - a. Know God's Word is true 3:1-4
 - d. Know God's work is consistent 3:5-7
 - e. Know God's will is longsuffering and merciful 3:8-10
 - f. Know God's day of judgment 3:11-14
 - g. Know God's longsuffering is salvation 3:15-17
 - h. Knowing God and growing in His grace 3:18
- 1). Growing in the true Grace of God 1:2; 3:18
- 2). Growing in the true Knowledge of God

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- 16-18 1:1-12, 6, 19-21 2:2, 9, 19-20 3:1-2,
- 3). Growing in Righteousness
1:1 2:5, 8, 13, 20-21 3:13-14
 - 4). Growing in Peace
1:2, 3:14 Ps. 85:10
 - 5). Growing in Faith
1:1 5-8 Gal. 5:6
Romans 1:17 Psalm 84:7
 - a). Faith warned 1:9
 - b). Faith reminded, re-established reinforced. 1:12
 - c). Faith encouraged 1:16
 - d). Faith perfected
 - 6). Growing in Power
1:3 10,16,21
 - 7). Growing in Love 1:7; 3:1,2
 - a). Loving the Lord
 - b). Loving each other
 - c). Loving the Truth

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Study Questions - II Peter

1. How did Peter get his name and what does it mean?
2. What is the purpose for the writing of II Peter?
3. Give the only cure for false doctrine:
4. How did Holy men speak?
5. Give an example of Peter acknowledging Jesus as Saviour and Lord:
6. Where do we find a more sure Word of Prophecy?
7. What is the theme of II Peter?
8. Write the three major points of the outline:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
9. Why do people become 'again entangled and overcome'?
10. The Lord has delayed His return because He is _____ -
____ and _____ .
11. What is the next major event to take place?
12. What does *beware* mean?
13. How many spiritual things are provided for us to make it, and how are they obtained?
14. Name and describe one hard Scripture that you have learned and you can teach someone else:

Becoming Strong against Change

2Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

“seeing ye know these things before”—to know beforehand, foresee, foreknow (ordain), know (before).

“beware”—to watch, be on guard, to preserve, obey, avoid, be ward, keep, observe, save.

“being led away”—to take off together, transport with (seduce, passively, yield):--carry (lead) away with, condescend.

“fall”—to drop away; be driven out of one's course; to lose, become inefficient, be cast, fail, fall, take none effect.

“steadfastness”—Stability—(not changing)—strengthen

Mark 4:24 And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear**: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

Mark 13:23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Luke 8:18 **Take heed therefore how ye hear**: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

1Cor. 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed

Hebrews 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

- I. **Faith in Christ** which has put you in possession of that grace which establishes the heart.
- II. Firm and settled principles of truth.

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III. Full grown spiritually

Proverbs 24:21—*My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:*

I John

I. Writer: John, the Beloved

A. Many Similarities Indicating the Same Writer

- | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. I Jn. 1:1 | - | Jn. 1:1,4,14 |
| 2. I Jn. 1:4 | - | Jn. 15:11; 16:3,4 |
| 3. I Jn. 2:2 | - | Jn. 1:29 |
| 4. I Jn. 2:5 | - | Jn. 14:23 |
| 5. I Jn. 2:6 | - | Jn. 15:4 |
| 6. I Jn. 2:8 | - | Jn. 13:34; 15:12 |
| 7. I Jn. 2:8,10 | - | Jn. 1:5,9; 11:10 |
| 8. I Jn. 2:13,14 | - | Jn. 17:3 |
| 9. I Jn. 2:24 | - | Jn. 8:31,32 |
| 10. I Jn. 3:1 | - | Jn. 1:12 |
| 11. I Jn. 3:2 | - | Jn. 17:24 |
| 12. I Jn. 3:5 | - | Jn. 1:29 |
| 13. I Jn. 3:8 | - | Jn. 8:44 |
| 14. I Jn. 3:11 | - | Jn. 13:34 |
| 15. I Jn. 3:13 | - | Jn. 15:20 |
| 16. I Jn. 4:9 | - | Jn. 3:16 |
| 17. I Jn. 4:10 | - | Jn. 1:29 |
| 18. I Jn. 4:12 | - | Jn. 1:18 |
| 19. I Jn. 5:7 | - | Jn. 10:30 |
| 20. I Jn. 5:9-12 | - | Jn. 3:31-36 |
| 21. I Jn. 5:13 | - | Jn. 20:31 |
| 22. I Jn. 5:14 | - | Jn. 14:14 |
| 23. I Jn. 5:20 | - | Jn. 17:2 |

II. The Purpose for Writing I John

A. The Pastor writing to his flock, scattered and beyond the sound of his voice.

1. That ye may have fellowship. 1:3
2. That your joy may be full. 1:4
3. To declare the message that God is:
 - a. "The Word of Life" 1:1
 - b. "God is Light" 1:5
 - c. "God is Love" 3:16,23; 4:8,16
4. That ye sin not. 2:1,2,9-11
5. That ye may overcome the world. 2:7,8,5-17; 4:1,6,21; 5:2-5
6. He met error with truth. 2:26; 3:7,8

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7. That ye may know that ye have Eternal Life. 5:13

III. Theme: "Walk in the light as He is the light" 1:7

A. His Knowledge in us.

1. "That ye may know that ye have eternal life in you." I Jn. 5:13,20

Conscious knowledge of having eternal life is the foundation of our experience with Joy.

B. His Character in us

1. Calls for Holy living. 2:6,10; 3:7

2. Calls for Brotherly love. 3:14

IV. Outline of I John

A. The Person of Jesus Christ is the Center of the Message

1. Jesus Christ is the beginning

a. Christ is Deity - The Word of Life - truth personified 1:1; 5:20

1) His life was manifested 1:2

2) His life is eternal 1:2

b. From the beginning

1) The body manifested flesh and bones and will of the son of man totally surrendered to the Father's will. 1:1-3

2) Blood Manifest Divine Life. 3:5,8

c. Two Natures in one - "The Word of Life" 1:1; 1:7; 5:6

1) Divinity - God - The Eternal - Blood

2) Humanity - man - The Earthly - Water

Jesus is the true Son of God and Eternal Life. I Jn. 5:20

The Source and Fountain of Life

The Author of Life - Spiritually and Naturally

The Central Message and Messenger

2. Jesus Christ is the believer's Advocate. 2:1

a. The Propitiation for our sin. 2:2; 4:10

b. The Propitiation for the sins of the whole world. 2:2; 4:14

c. Know that we know Him if we keep His commandments. 2:3,20,21,24; 3:24

d. We know that we are in Him, if His love is perfected in us. 2:5; 4:12,16,17

1) Walk as He walked. 1:7; 2:6; 3:3; 4:17

2) Sinneth not. 2:1; 3:6

a) The secret of victory over sin.

(1) Walk in the light 1:7

(a) Keep His commandments 2:3,4

(b) Keep His word 2:5,6

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- (c) Keep in close fellowship with Christ.
1:3,7; 2:24
 - 3) The darkness is past and the true light now
shineth. 2:8
 - 4) He hath given of His Spirit. 4:13
 - 3. Jesus Christ is the Son of God
 - a. We shall be like Him. 3:2,3; 4:2
 - b. Manifested to take away our sins. 3:5
 - c. Manifested to destroy the works of the devil. 3:8
 - d. We shall believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.
3:23
 - e. We should love one another. 3:23
 - f. God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we
might live through Him. 4:9,10,14,15
 - 4. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. 4:14
 - a. Sent by the Father
 - 1) He came with promise. 2:25
 - 2) He came with commandment. 4:11,21
 - 3) He came with power. 4:9
 - a) Power to forgive. 2:1,2,12
 - b) Power to give life. 2:25; 3:9,14; 4:9; 5:11-
13,20
 - 4) He came with price. 4:9,14
 - a) It costs Him His life 3:16
 - b) It costs Him His glory
 - c) It costs Him His nature
 - d) It costs Him His fellowship
 - 5) He came with passion 4:9
 - a) "Manifested the love of God toward us." 4:9
 - 5. Jesus Christ is the Word. 5:7
 - a. We are born again by the Word. I Jn. 5:1; 3:9; 5:18;
Ps. 119:11,50;
I Pet. 1:23; Jn. 3:5; James 1:18; Heb. 4:2; Lk. 8:11
 - 1) Logos - Divine Expression
 - 2) The Christ 5:1
 - b. We overcome by the Word. 5:3-7
 - 1) Faith is produced by the Word. 5:4,13,20
 - 2) Love is produced by the Word. 5:1-3
- The very nature of Salvation is obedience.

Unwavering Faith

Our faith is the secret of God's abiding presence and life.

"If thou canst believe." Mk. 9:23

"If thou wouldest believe" Jn. 11:40

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"Do you believe on the Son of God?" Jn. 9:35

"That ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I Jn. 5:13

Everlasting Love

God's love is the source of God's abiding presence and life.

"The love of God ... that we might live." I Jn. 4:9

"He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God." I Jn. 4:16

B. The testimony of a man that has been with Jesus.

Chapter One

1. "We have heard it." 1:1 He speaks with authority.
2. "We have seen with our eyes." 1:1 He meditated long on the wonderful truths of Jesus's life
3. "We have looked upon" 1:1 He speaks with finality
4. "Our hands have handled of the Word of Life." 1:1
5. "For the life was manifested and we have seen it." 1:2
6. "Bear witness and show unto you that eternal life." 1:2
7. "Which was with the Father and manifested unto us." 1:2
8. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." 1:3
9. "your joy may be full" 1:4
10. "This then is the message which we have heard of Him and declare unto you that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" 1:5

Chapter Two

1. "An advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 2:1
2. "The propitiation for the sins of the whole world." 2:2
3. "We must keep His commandments." 2:3-8

Chapter Three

1. "The world knew Him not." 3:1
2. "He is pure, we must be pure like Him." 3:3
3. "In Him is no sin." 3:5
4. "The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil." 3:8
5. "He laid down His life for us." 3:16
6. "He abideth in us." 3:24

Chapter Four and Five

1. "He is greater than he that is in the world." 4:4
2. "The only begotten Son of God." 4:9,15; 5:5,10-13,20
3. "His love is perfected in us." 4:12,17,18; 5:3,21
4. "He hath given us of His Spirit." 4:13; 3:24; 4:2; 5:7

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5. "We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." 4:14
6. "God is Love." 4:8,16

Chapter Five

1. "We know that we love." 5:2
2. "Our faith in Christ overcomes the world" 5:4
3. "We know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." 5:15
4. If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. 5:16
5. "We know that we are of God." 5:19
6. "We know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true." 5:20

C. He shows the stages of Spiritual growth by addressing the whole family.

2:1-5,12-14

1. Little children "Paidion" 2:12
2. (half-grown) Immature
3. A process of growth
4. A new convert
 - a. They have an experience
"Because ye have known." 2:13 "Known" Ginosko - Experiential knowledge
 - b. Entering into a closer union with the Father.
"Ye have known the Father." 2:13
 - c. They are developing Spiritually
"Have (and are knowing) the Father." 2:13,21,28
 - d. Still deficient in spiritual understanding. 1:6,8,10; 2:1,9,11-13,18-29; 3:1,10,18; 4:4; 5:21
5. Young men "Nconiskos" 2:13,14 adolescent.
 - a. They are developing in the experience.
"Ye have overcome the wicked one." 2:13
"Walk in the light." 1:7
 - b. They are developing in spiritual strength.
"Ye are strong and the Word of God abideth in you." 2:14
"Keep His word." 2:5
 - c. They continue to overcome. 2:14
"Ye have overcome the wicked one."
Continue. 2:24,27

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Keepeth himself. 5:18 Keep yourselves from idols.
5:21

Idol places, idol people, Idol things, Idol thoughts and
Idol beliefs.

An idol is nothing. I Cor. 8:4

Covetousness is idolatry. Col. 3:5 Stubbornness is
as idolatry. I Sam. 15:2

6. Brethren

a. "The darkness is past and the true light now shineth."
2:7,8

b. "No cause of stumbling." 2:10

c. "Lay down our lives for the brethren." 3:13,16

7. Beloved

a. "We shall see Him as He is." 3:2

b. "Do those things that are pleasing in His sight."
3:21,22

c. "Try the spirits." 4:1

d. "Let us love another." 4:7,11

8. Fathers - "Pater" nourished, protector, upholder

a. Advanced in the knowledge of Christ because you
know Him that is from the beginning. 2:13
Doesn't know Him in the manner he wants to. Phil.
3:10

b. Advanced in the Knowledge of the Truth. Eph. 1:18;
Eph. 5:14; I Jn 5:20

c. Advanced in Spiritual growth. Rom.8:14,19; II Co
3:18; 6:14-18; Heb. 2:10
1) Understanding requires spiritual growth.
2) Understanding requires spiritual alertness.
3) Understanding requires spiritual life.

Till no more a child. Eph. 4:13,14; No more a servant, but a Son. Gal.
4:1-7

Walking in full inheritance. A Perfect Man.

9. "You that believe."

a. "Believe on His name." 3:23

b. "Love one another."

c. "God is love." 4:15-21

d. That Jesus is the Christ is born of God. 5:1

e. Overcometh the world. 5:5

f. Hath the witness in Himself. 5:10-12

g. Ask according to his will. 5:14

h. That ye may know that ye have eternal life. 5:13-20

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D. God is Light, Love, and Life. 4:8,16; 5:20

1. God's Light 1:5

- a. Light-eyes (illumination of truth)
- b. Understanding-mind
- c. Excellent wisdom-right use of the mind/heart. Wise in mind, word, deed, act
- d. Light in the believer.
 - 1) Truth in thee. I Jn. 2:4-11; Dan. 5:14; Eph. 5:14; Ps. 23:23; Phil. 3:13
 - 2) Understanding truth. Prov. 3:3,4; I Jn. 5:20; 2:21
 - 3) Applying the truth. I Jn. 1:7; I Jn. 3:18,19, 22

2. God's Love

- a. The Love of God is perfected in him that keeps His word. 2:5
 - 1) Love and light go together. 2:10
 - 2) Hate and darkness go together. 2:11; 3:13
 - 3) Love and life go together. 4:9
 - 4) Hate and death go together. 3:14,15
 - 5) Love and sacrifice go together. 3:16
 - 6) Hate and selfishness go together. 3:17
 - 7) Love and truth go together. 1:6,8; 2:4,21,27; 3:18,19; 4:6; 5:6
 - 8) Hate and lies go together. 1:6; 2:4,21,27; 4:6
- b. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 4:8
- c. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. 4:12,20,21
- d. Our love is made perfect because as He is, so are we in this world. 4:17
- e. He that feareth not is made perfect in love. 4:18
- f. This is the love of God that we keep his commandments. 5:3

3. God is Life

- a. "The Word of Life." 1:1
- b. "The Pride of Life is not of the Father." 2:16
- c. "He hath promised us eternal life." 2:25; 3:9,14; 5:1,11-13,20
- d. "No murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." 3:15

E. Fellowship

- 1. Fellowship with God. 1:3
- 2. Fellowship with the saints. 1:3
- 3. Fellowship with another. 1:7
- 4. Conditions of fellowship
 - a. Confession of sin. 1:8-10

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- b. Accept Christ as advocate and propitiation. 2:1,2; 4:10
- c. Christ manifested life.
 - 1) "In you." 2:5,8,10,14
 - 2) You rejoice in Him. 1:4
 - 3) Continue in faith. 2:23,24
 - 4) Continue in brotherly Love. 2:10
 - 5) Continue in His commandments. 2:3-6; 3:3,7,23

F. The Importance of Knowing God. 5:20

28 times "know" is recorded. 6 times "knoweth" 5 times "known". 1 time "knew".

1 time "acknowledgeth". 41 times in all, The phrase "We know" or "Ye know"

- a. "We know that it is the last time." 2:18
- b. "Ye know the truth." 2:21
- c. "Ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." 2:29
- d. "We know that we shall be like Him." 3:2
- e. "Ye know that He was manifested." 3:5
 - 1) To take away our sins.
 - 2) In Him is no sin.
 - 3) To destroy the works of the devil.
- f. "We know that we have passed from death unto life." 3:14
- g. "Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." 3:15
- h. "We know that we are of the truth." 3:19

G. Warning concerning false prophets and false teachers in the church.

- 1. Their teaching is false. False doctrine is part of the darkness. 1:6,8,10; 2:4,11,22; 4:5,20; 5:10
- 2. Their character is against God. 2:18,19,26; 4:1,3; 5:19
- 3. Their worship is idolatry. 5:21

The Epistle of I John answers the MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF MAN

1. (Misunderstanding)—Man thinks he can fellowship with God and still walk in sin, **1John 1:6**—*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

7—But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1John 2:1—*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye*

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sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

"We already have fellowship with God. We already worship God and feel safe and acceptable in our religion. We do not need someone else to show us how to become acceptable to God. We can reach God on our own; we can secure His approval by ourselves. We don't need someone else telling us how to approach God and how we should worship God and secure His approval."

Many reject John's declaration: the Son of God has come to earth.

Jesus Christ came so that man can have true fellowship with God.

- A. Most people believe that they can fellowship with God even while they walk in darkness and practice sin.
 - a. They lie
 - b. They do not the truth
- B. The truth: we must walk in the light given to us (v.7).
 - a. Then we have fellowship.
 - b. Then we are cleansed from all sin.
- C. What does it mean to walk in darkness?
 - a. It means that the world is ignorant about God. Man cannot see God nor talk face to face with God. Man cannot hear God nor touch God. How then can man know that God really exists? Man and his world are in the dark about God.
 - b. It means that man does not know exactly how God wants him to live: how moral and pure, how righteous and just. Man by himself has no way to communicate with God.

❖ There is only one way to God; one answer and one Savior.

God who always abides the spiritual world, must reveal Himself in the physical world. God has to reveal Himself to us. This is the only conceivable way man could ever fellowship with God. This is the glorious gospel: That the Son of God has come to reveal God to us. (1 John 1:1-5)

1John 4:14—*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

Man declares that he can find God on his own, that he can relate to God and be good enough to fellowship with God and to secure God's approval by himself.

Man believes that he can use his own mind and reasoning and find out enough about God to become acceptable to Him and to fellowship with Him.

Man believes that he can use his own hands and energy and do enough to please God and to receive His approval.

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Man thinks if he believes in God and does half-way right, then his belief and good deeds will put God in debt to him. God will never reject him; God will accept him.

Man concludes that he can reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He concludes that he can fellowship and become acceptable to God by believing that God exists and by doing enough good to please God.

The Word of God is strong. God is light; therefore, if a person walks in darkness, he does not know God. He is not fellowshiping with God. Light and darkness cannot dwell together. A person has to choose in which he wants to live in the light of God or in the darkness of the world.

1John 1:5—*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

6—*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

John 1:5—*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

10—*He was in the world,*

and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

3:19—*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

J 4:10—*Jesus*

answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Acts 17:23—*For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*

Psalms 82:5—*They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.*

Proverbs 4:19—*The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.*

Jer 4:22—*For my people*

is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

2. (**Misunderstanding**)—man is not totally sinful, depraved and hopeless without Christ. (1:8-9)

3. (**Misunderstanding**)—man can become righteous and sinless on his own (1:10-2:2).

FROM PHIL CARLE:

I John

Who it was written to:

This first letter of John was written to the Christian family in general, warning them against false teaching and exhorting them to practical godliness.

Theme:

Develop that practical godliness that produces perfect fellowship with God.

Why written:

1. That the child of God might have fellowship with the Father and the Son, and with one another. (1:3)
2. That the child of God may have fullness of joy. (1:4)
3. That he may not sin. (2:1)
4. That he may recognize the grounds of his assurance of eternal life. (5:13)

When written:

Approximately A. D. 90

Where written:

Probably at Ephesus where John lived and ministered after leaving Jerusalem

Contents:

- I. Introduction 1:1-4
- II. Fellowship with God 1:5 to 2:28
- III. Divine Sonship 2:29 to 3:24
- IV. The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error 4:1-6
- V. God is Love 4:7-21
- VI. Faith 5:1-12
- VII. Conclusion: Christian Confidence 5:13-21

I. Introduction 1:1-4

John begins this letter without introducing himself. Quite likely he was so familiar to his audience that he needed no introduction. He begins by saying that he was a personal witness of the "Word of life" (Jesus Christ), that he had personally heard Him, saw Him and handled Him. He declares this "eternal life" to them that they may have fellowship with him and that their joy may be full.

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II. Fellowship with God 1:5 to 2:28

Here, John gives the evidence of those who truly have fellowship with God:

1. They walk in the light (1:5-7)
There are many false teachers who twist the scriptures and deceive many, but our conduct ultimately proves whether we live in the truth of God's Word and have the Spirit of God.
2. They repent upon the awareness of sin (1:8)
They will not tolerate sin in their lives or treat it lightly, but will deal with it upon discovery.
3. To be like Christ and obedient to His Word (2:2-6)
If we have fellowship with God, we will be an imitator and revealer of Christ and live a life of obedience to His Word as He was obedient to the Word of the Father.
4. They love the brethren (2:7-11)
They will keep this commandment that was given in the beginning and has been renewed up through the years.
5. They have no love for the world (2:12-17)
They will hate the spirit of this world and sin which is the enemy of that Life that resides within them.
6. They have pure doctrine (2:18-28)
There are many false teachers with the spirit of antichrist, but those who have fellowship with God need not be led astray by the subtle and plausible arguments of those who promote error for they have the Spirit to lead them into all truth.

III. Divine Sonship 2:29 to 3:24

Here, John gives the evidence of those who have divine sonship:

1. A righteous walk (2:29 to 3:10)
The Christian is to show an absolute antagonism to sin because:
 - a. His divine sonship and the desire to become like Jesus (2:29 to 3:1-3)
 - b. Sin is the transgression of the law of God - i.e. rebellion against God. (3:4)
 - c. Because of Christ's character and His atoning work for us. (v. 5-7)
 - d. Because of the diabolical nature of sin. (v. 8)
 - e. Because of the godly nature of the Christian life. (v. 9)
 - f. Because the final test as to whether we are children of God or children of the devil lies in our actions. (v. 10)
2. Love for the brethren (3:11-18)

IV. The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error 4:1-6

1. The appeal v. 1

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No matter how “right” a teacher, prophet etc may seem, his words are to be tested.

2. The test v. 2

Those who will confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. Those who are not of God and bear a false and deceiving spirit will claim to speak for God and to present divine truth, but not by Jesus Christ. They do not glorify Him and confess that Jesus Christ, as God, came to this earth and lived as a man.

3. The conflict v. 4

It is evident that these believers had encountered these false teachers, but had held to the truth.

4. The contrast vs. 5-6

Godly men attract men who are similar in love and devotion to God. False teachers and men who are of the spirit of this world also attract those who are similar in spirit.

V. God is Love 4:7-21

1. The call to love v. 7

2. The reason for love: “God is love” v. 8

3. The proof of divine love: God’s sacrifice vs. 9-10

4. The claim of love: God’s love for us calls on us to love our brethren v. 11

5. The result of love in us:

a. The manifestation of God’s presence vs. 12-16

b. Boldness v. 17

c. Absence of condemning fear v. 18

6. The proof of our love:

a. The proof of our love for God is a love for our brother who is made and renewed in God’s image. v. 19-21

b. The proof of our love for the brethren is found in our love for God. 5:1-2

c. The proof of our love for God is manifested in keeping His commandments. v. 3

VI. Faith 5:1-12

1. The victory of faith 5:4-5

2. The threefold earthly witness of faith vs. 6-8

3. The heavenly witness vs. 9-12

VII. Conclusion: Christian Confidence 5:13-21

1. The substance of the Christian confidence – the assurance of eternal life. v. 13

2. The manifestation of Christian confidence.

a. Outwardly the power of offering effectual prayer. vs. 14-17

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- b. Inward conviction – “We know.” vs. 18-20
- 3. Concluding exhortation v. 21

A brief summary of each chapter

Chapter 1

We must live our lives in obedience to the Word of God (truth, “light”) that our faith be not a mere profession and that we may have fellowship with the Father, the Son and with each other.

Chapter 2

Sin not. Keep His commandments. The proof or evidence that we know Him, that we are “in Him” is that we keep His commandments and love our brother. Love not the world. We have an unction or anointing that teaches us the truth and keeps us from error. Abide in Him.

Chapter 3

We are sons of God. We shall be like Him. Those who are sons of God and desire to be like Him, must purify themselves as He is pure. Jesus came that He might take away our sins. If we belong to God, we will love our brother and will not live under sin. If we are of the devil, we will sin. Believe on Jesus Christ and love your brother, not only in word, but also in deed.

Chapter 4

Try the spirits. Those that are of God will love the truth and confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Love one another. As He is, so are we in this world. If we love God, we will also love each other.

Evidences that we are in Him:

1. We will have the love of God and manifest it toward one another. (v. 7-8)
2. We have received of the Spirit (v.13)
3. We will confess that Jesus is the Son of God (v. 15)
4. We will “dwell in love” (v. 16)

Perfect love:

1. Gives us boldness in the day of judgment (v. 17)
2. Removes all fear (v. 18)

Chapter 5

If we believe that Jesus is the Christ, we are born of God. We know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments. This is the love of God that we keep His commandments. Those who are born of God overcome the world by

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faith. The Spirit is truth. There are three that bear record in heaven . . . and these three are one. There are three that bear witness in earth . . . and these three agree in one. The witness of God is greater than the witness of men. We that believe have this witness in us. If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and if He hears us, we have what we ask for. There is a sin not unto death. All unrighteousness is sin. He that is born of God keeps himself and does not sin.

II John

II. Writer: John, the Beloved

A. The Elder—(**JOHN the Beloved**) v.1

1. "I love in the truth"
2. "They that have known the truth." v. 1
3. "The truth dwells in us" v. 2
4. Rejoicing greatly. v. 4
5. "Walking in truth." v. 4
6. We love one another. v. 5
7. We walk in the commandment. v. 6
8. Looking for a full reward. v. 7
9. Looking for the fullness of joy. v. 12

B. "The Elder unto the elect lady and her children whom I love in the truth" v. 1

Elder— pres-boo'-ter-os presbus (elderly); older; a senior; Christian "presbyter":-- elder(-est),

1Peter5:1—*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:*

5—*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

There are many great lessons to learn from the elders and those Chosen and obedient.

True Elders that know God know what to do and what is going to happen if you don't obey.

Elect Lady—Elect (ek-lek-tos') Means to be **Chosen by God**. Select, Favorite and Chosen.

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This is exactly what Paul said about believers: "elect of God, holy and beloved."

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the **elect of God, holy and beloved**, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- This dear mother was chosen by God to be one of His elect, one of His holy and beloved followers.

1. She was elected to be holy. The word "holy" (*hagios*) means separated or set apart. God called this dear mother out of the world and away from the old life of sin and death.

She was elected to be holy, to have nothing to do with the worldly pleasures and possessions of the world.

She was to be separated and set apart unto God Himself in newness of life, the new life of righteousness and True Holiness.

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

2. She was elected to be one of the beloved followers of God. God had called her to turn away from the old life...

God had chosen her to be His elect, one of His dear followers and receive His love in Christ Jesus and to allow Him to show His love to her and her children. She was elected to follow God with all her heart, soul, mind and strength (her whole being and life); elected to live a holy life,

C. **The Elder**—A man who knows God and knows how to love.

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1. Entrusted with the responsibility of the mother of Jesus.
Jn. 19:26
2. Took advantage of being the closest to Jesus. Jn. 13:23
3. Abideth in the light. I Jn. 2:10
4. In word and in truth. I Jn 3:14-18
5. He that loveth not knoweth not God. I Jn. 4:7-12
6. "Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" I
Jn.4:7b

III. The Purpose of Writing II John

- A. "That we love another." v. 5
- B. To show His appreciation of their loyalty to the truth.
1. Love in the truth. v. 1
 2. All they that have known the truth. v. 1
 3. For the truth's sake. v. 2
 4. In truth and love. v. 3
 5. Walking in truth. v. 4
- C. "Look to yourself that we lose not." v. 8
- D. To remind those that fellowship in the true doctrine of Christ, must keep separated from the false, that they be not partakers of the evil deeds. v. 9-11
- E. To prepare them for the importance of his coming to see them.
v. 12

IV. Theme: "The Doctrine of Christ"
Right Doctrine is what Christ Has Taught Us. v. 9

- A. This is love. v. 6
- B. This is the commandment. v. 6
- C. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist. v. 7
- D. A full reward. v. 8
- E. A full joy. v. 12

V. The Outline of II John

- A. "The Elder" v. 1

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B. "Unto the elect (chosen) lady." v. 1

C. Children of the elect. v. 1

D. Love in truth. v. 1

E. Love because of the truth, "For the truth's sake." v. 2

F. Truth and love infused by grace, mercy, peace. v. 3

1. **Grace** For our poverty – Divine favor and good will unto his riches
2. **Mercy** For our guilt – Free pardon and forgiveness unto his likeness
3. **Peace** For our misery – Lively Spirit and good conscience unto his divine nature
4. **Truth** Must be united with love
5. **Love** Must be united with truth

G. Walking in the truth. v. 4,6

1. Progressing in the Truth in the face of the false.
2. Growing in the Truth
3. Developing in the Truth
4. Maintainable of the Spirit
5. Perfecting Walk and Worship in Spirit and in Truth.

H. Abiding in the doctrine of Christ. v. 9

Jesus Christ as the Son of the Father is the foundation of our faith.

1. Remaining
2. Continuing
3. Dwelling
4. Enduring
5. Tarrying

2John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Whosoever transgresseth does not abide in the teachings of Christ does not have or possess God.

Whosoever does **not** transgress but abides in the doctrine of Christ has and possesses all of God.

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par-ab-ah'-ee-no—to go contrary to, violate a command:--(by)
transgress(-ion). It means to transgress
against God by going too far, by trying to move out ahead of Christ.

There are many teachers, ministers and laymen who would like to be progressive and creative, to come up with an ideal thought, to make some advancement in doctrine.

They want to be recognized and approved so they try to impress people and go beyond Christ and what He has taught. They twist or break off from the teachings of Christ.

John warns against a person that does not stay in the teachings of Christ, he does not have God. He is not saved; he is not truly born of God. The only person who is born of God is the person who stays in the teachings of Christ. This does not mean that believers are not to be creative and thoughtful. It means: we must not move away from or beyond what Christ taught.

- We must abide in the doctrine of Christ
- We must be progressive and must be toward Christ, not away from Him

What are the Doctrines of Christ?

The Gospel according to John is a great book to study to know the doctrine of Christ.

- 1.Christ is the Word, The Word is God and the Word was made flesh.
- 2.Christ is the Son of God and Creator of all things with the Father and the Holy Ghost.
- 3.Christ is the source of life and the light of men.
- 4.Christ is the only Savior.
5. Christ is the way the truth and the life, the only way to the Father.

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

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17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

I. How to treat heretics. v. 10. Titus 3:10 Mat. 18:15-17

J. The importance of communicating. v. 12. Heb. 13:16

K. Greetings from the children of the elect's sister. v. 13

III John

VI. Writer: John, the Beloved

D. Writing man to man

1. Gaius v.1
2. Diotrephes v. 9,10
3. Demetrius v. 12

E. Reason for not writing more - III Jn. 13; II Jn. 12; Jn. 20:30,31; 21:25

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

F. The elder unto the well beloved

"Whom I love in the truth." v. 1

1. John's well beloved - v. 1
2. Paul's host - Rom. 16:23; I Cor. 1:12-14
3. Paul's companion in travel - Acts 19:29; 20:4
4. Doing faithfully - v. 5
5. Fellowhelpers to the truth - v. 8
6. Followers of good - v. 11
7. Friends - v. 14

G. A man who has taught others to love and to prosper spiritually - v. 1-6

1. Spiritual prosperity is ideal - v. 2
 - i. Secular prosperity is useful, when used for the work of God.
 1. Wealth can be honorable - a blessing from God.
 2. Love of riches is dishonorable - a curse of the devil.
 - ii. Physical health is desirable.
 1. God's gift - health
 2. Our spiritual experience can be effected by our physical condition.
2. Spiritual prosperity is the results of conforming to the truth. v. 3-6,11
 - i. Faith molds the life in conformity to the truth.
 1. True faith will cultivate a holy life

Gaius' soul prospered. He was growing spiritually, growing stronger and stronger in Christ and in the fruit of the Spirit.

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Love Longsuffering

Faith

Joy Gentleness Meekness
Peace Goodness Temperance

Gaius was doing all he could to help the travelling ministers. He was opening his home and supporting them, he had a strong testimony in the ministry of hospitality. He opened his home to strangers in order to reach and grow them in Christ.

Gaius is to continue to receive and support the travelling ministers 3 John 6.

- a. Travelling ministers should be received and supported as they go forth for Christ. They have dedicated their lives to serve Christ by reaching the lost and growing believers, and the church needs their ministry. In addition, they have made the commitment by faith, without receiving a regular income
- b. Travelling ministers should be received and supported because we need to be fellow-workers in the truth. There is no question: they are workers in the truth. Travelling evangelists, missionaries, prophets, and teachers alike are carrying the gospel of truth across the world. The only question is: Are we in the local church going to be fellow workers with them? John says that it is the very thing that God Himself would do. Therefore, we in the local church must labor with all those who walk in the truth of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. We must labor with all those chosen by God to carry forth the Word of truth, the Word of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

VII. The Purpose of Writing III John

- A. To express his love and appreciation - v. 1
- B. To commend the good men - v. 3-7, 12
- C. To warn of the evil - v. 9-11
- D. Shortly he will see them - v. 14

VIII. Theme: Followhelpers to the truth - v. 8

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- A. Christian character
- B. Christian hospitality
- C. Fellow laborer
Right character produces right conduct and right conduct prevails.

IX. The Outline of III John

- A. Brotherly **Love** - v. 1,2,5,6,8,11
- B. Soul winning - **Joy** - v. 3,4
- C. Self sacrificing - **Peace** - v. 7

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

- D. Hospitality without respect of persons - **Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness** - v.5,8

- E. A discerning mind - v. 9,10

1. "Loveth to have the preeminence" v.19 (Col. 1:18)
 - a. Ambition
 - b. Self-exaltation
 - c. Self righteous
 - d. Pride - The pride in your heart will show itself in your actions. The Highest honor is won by the one with deepest humility. God giveth grace to the humble.
2. "Receiveth us not" v. 9
 - a. Rejected John's letter and authority
 - b. Rejected the missionaries
 - c. Diotrephes determined to rule the church
3. "Prating against us with malicious words" v.10
 - a. prating - running on with speech (chattering)
 - b. Malicious - slander (wicked words)
4. "Not content" v. 10
5. "Neither doth himself receive the brethren" v. 10
6. "Forbiddeth them that would" v. 10
7. "Casteth them out" v. 10

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Diotrephes did not like the idea of travelling ministers visiting and holding meetings in the church. He opposed any kind of minister or ministry that was not settled within the church itself. He did not want the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists or Missionaries teaching and preaching in the church.

He thought believers could learn all they needed to know from his own ministry.

He did not receive help in reaching out to the lost.

He thought he could carry out the mission of Christ without the help of others.

F. A faithful working mind

Following and doing good with a clear vision of God - **Faith** - v. 5,11

G. Having a good report - **Meekness** - v. 12

H. A peaceful mind - **Temperance** - v. 14

The Epistle of Jude

The **Epistle of Jude**, usually referred to simply as **Jude**, Apostle Jude (Thaddaeus). is the penultimate book of the New Testament (last but one—second to last) and is attributed to Jude, the brother of James the Just (who was called "the brother of Jesus")

It is often called "the most neglected book" in the NT, because it is short and next to the last.

I. Writer: Jude - v. 1 "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James" Apostle Jude (Thaddaeus).

A. The servant of Jesus Christ

B. Brother of James - Mat. 13:55; Mk. 6:3

C. Half brother of Jesus

D. Has much in common with the Epistles of Peter.

E. The only writer to record the strife over the body of Moses and Enoch's prophecy. v. 9,14,15

II. **The Purpose of Writing Jude:**

Jude wrote this letter in an effort to remind the church of the need for constant vigilance, keep strong in the faith and mercy and oppose heresy.

Beware of the danger of false teaching (1-16)
Be obedient to fight for godly teaching (17-25)

Jude wrote to motivate Christians everywhere to action. He wanted them to recognize the dangers of false teaching, to protect themselves and other believers, and to win back those who had already been deceived. Jude was writing against godless teachers who were saying that Christians could do as they pleased without fear of God's punishment.

Two Major themes contained in Jude:

False Teachers - Jude warns against false teachers and leaders who reject the lordship of Christ, undermine the faith of others, and lead them astray. These leaders and any who follow them will be punished. We must earnestly contend for faith in the truth already revealed, you avoid leaders and teachers who distort the Bible to suit their own purposes. Genuine servants of God will faithfully portray Christ in their words and conduct.

Apostasy - those turned away from Christ are turned to their own thinking. We are to remember that God punishes rebellion against him. We must be careful not to drift away from a faithful commitment to Christ. Those who do seek to know the truth in God's Word are susceptible to apostasy. Christians must guard against any false teachings that would distract them from the truth preached by the apostles and written in God's Word.

A. "...It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye shall earnestly contend for the faith which was one delivered unto the saints."- v. 3

B. Certain men crept in unawares - v. 4

1. Ungodly men

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2. Turing the grace of God into lasciviousness
3. Denying the only Lord God

C. Jude began to write to them - v. 1

1. Them that are sanctified - v. 1
2. Preserved - v. 1
3. Called - v. 1
4. Mercy, peace and love multiplied - v. 2
5. Beloved - v. 3

III. Theme: Contending For The Faith That Was Once Delivered Unto The Saints. - v. 3

IV. The Outline of Jude

A. Introduction - v. 1,2

The *Epistle of Jude* is a brief book of only a single chapter with 25 verses. It was to be read in all the churches.

The wording of this epistle in its original Greek demonstrates that the author was capable and fluent. The epistle is addressed to Christians in general, and it warns them about the doctrine of certain false teachers to whom they were exposed. Docetism, Marcionism, and Gnosticism.

The epistle is aggressive, fervent, and swift. Many examples of evildoers and warnings about their fates are given in rapid succession. The descriptions used in this Epistle are considered to be some of the strongest in the New Testament.

The epistle concludes with a doxology, which is considered to be one of the highest in quality contained in the Bible.

Jude 1:24—*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

25—*To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

Jude is dependent on James, and II Peter is dependent on Jude

1. Intended to be for the whole church
2. Sanctified, preserved, and called
3. Mercy, peace and love multiplied

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B. That the church is being seriously awakened

1. "...You should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" v. 3
2. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though you once knew this. v. 5-19
 - a. God saves the believer
 - b. God destroys the unbeliever
3. Building yourselves up in you most holy faith. v. 20-23

C. God is able - v. 24,25

1. To keep you from falling
2. To present you faultless
 - a. Before the presence of His glory
 - b. With exceeding joy

D. The only wise God is our Savior

1. Glory and majesty, dominion and power belong only to God

Jude 1,2— *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: 2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.*

I. There is a God

V. There is a God---There is one True God in absolutely three distinct Persons

FATHER—SON—HOLY GHOST

Not interchangeable

- D. He is the God that sanctifies, preserves and calls, v.1
- E. He is the God of Mercy, Peace and Love, v.2
- F. He is the God of Glory, Majesty, Dominion and Power, v.25
- G. He is the God of Grace, Faith and Judgment, vv.3-5

A. There are some true servants of God. v.1

1. There are true servants of God The Father, v.1
Sanctified by God the Father, v.1
2. There are some true servants of Jesus Christ the Son, v.1
Preserved in Jesus Christ, and called, v.1
3. There are some true servants of the Holy Ghost, v.20

Filled with a diligent Holy Faith, Love, Mercy, compassion, fear and purity. vv.3,20-24

Jude 3—*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith*

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which was once delivered unto the saints. 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

II. There is a Devil

There is an enemy and the adversary is the devil. What does an enemy do? He attacks. We must be aware of the strategies of the enemy in order to maintain a strong defense and offense. Awareness of the enemy's tactics is important, but before that we must make sure of our position in Christ.

III. There are Servants of Jesus Christ

Jude 1:1—Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ

Strengthen your position **as a Christian: a Christ follower.**

Strengthen your position **as a leader: Walk in His steps.**

*I Peter 2:21—For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow his steps:***

*Romans 4:12—And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who ***also walk in the steps of that faith*** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.*

We must make our position in Christ sure before we confront the enemy. If there is a place in our life for the devil to get a hold of us, he is going to try!

Jude is not addressed to any specific church or individual; therefore, it is called a *general epistle*, and is written to all Christians everywhere.

Jude was inspired from the beginning and he begins his letter in a manner that was customary for his time; which provides for the reader a place to get a grasp similar to the handle of a sword.

Jude does write about the “common salvation.” He does not change his purpose; he simply intensifies his focus and begins to focus on an extremely unstable area for Christians in general. We have an adversary that is subtle but so violent. He is on a “seek, kill, and destroy” mission; a mission that is designed to discourage, deceive, and devour every child of God. (John 10:10; I Peter 5:8)

This sly enemy knows that the time to devour is during spiritual infancy, and the most success will be in the area of teaching or training. Jude recognizes this and says, after much serious contemplation about salvation, it was necessary for him to focus on these **attacks.**

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Therefore, Jude stands out as one of the great generals of the faith when it comes to training troops and arming them for withstanding the enemy. His epistle gives us the philosophy and principles for an effective defense “against the wiles of the devil.”

Paul lays out the description of our adversary and of the soldier’s armor for contending with him in Ephesians 6:10-18. Jude lays out the description of the soldier’s mind set and tactics for contending with the enemy.

Jude 4 –For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have to fight for that which is right, wholesome, and blessed because we have an adversary that is cunningly deceiving so many. It is for the sake of some that we need to form a bulwark and stand against his works. His strategy is to use “certain men,” a variety of men, or men that *look just like anybody else*, to carry out his treachery. They come in as it were *through the side door* unnoticed, without any fanfare, just quietly. These men have been previously selected for their mission of subversion. They begin by interpreting the precious grace, mercy, and long-suffering of God as a license to be selfish and to commit sin. They say words like: “We all sin a little every day.” Then, they step down to: “It’s O.K. that we sin every day,” and then to: “God expects us to sin every day,” until they stoop to actual denial of the Father and the Son. “*He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son,*” I John 2:22

Jude 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Jude1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. {first estate: or, principality}

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- *I will therefore put you in remembrance*
- *though ye once knew this*

“Remember,” he says; or, “I will remind you, though you have known all along.”

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- *how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt*
- *afterward destroyed them that believed not.*
- *Angels— reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day*

Jude gives a little history of apostasy and some examples of God's judgment:

- 1) God delivered
- 2) God judged

Some do not maintain a position of safety (or, *salvation*). First, there are those who God has delivered in the past, like Israel from Egypt. Previous deliverance is not a guarantee of final, ultimate safety. The answer is simply to continue submitting to and believing in God, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Be on guard against rebellion. Next, there are the angels. No honest man presumes to be angelic, but even if he were, that condition is not a guarantee for safety. The remedy here is **vigilance**, which is often connected with **prayer** when it refers to the believer.

- We cannot afford to take life so lightly.
- *Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
- *Stay believing, keep in His Love.*

These angels were not watchful, and did not appreciate and stay in their place of safety. Thus, they are being held as prisoners on death row. Their judgment, however, will not be momentary—it will be eternal. You cannot befriend the devil at all and not suffer for it; the devil is **always** an adversary.

Jude 7—Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

There are those who are so ensnared by pleasure-seeking and promiscuity, like Sodom and Gomorra, who will not heed and obey the moral laws of God, which He has inscribed on the conscience of every human being, who also will be punished in Hell. They refuse to forsake their vile, self-gratifying ways and flee to the place of refuge. The antidote is to know and obey God's Word.

Jude 8—Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

So also is the case with the false teachers of his day and ours. They also will be judged for their vile imaginations. Jude says they soil both the thinking and the conduct with their corrupt ideas. They

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reject or *cast off* any form of government, including God's authoritative Word. Also, they attempt to undermine the position and influence of those that are ordained and established in positions of authority.

(Ephesians 4:11, 12; Hebrews 13:17)

*Jude 9,10—Yet Michael the archangel,
when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses,
durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord
rebuke thee.¹⁰ But these speak evil of those things which they
know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those
things they corrupt themselves.*

Jude cautions us about railing against those in whom God has placed in power, authority, and anointing. He uses as an illustration the time when "Michael the archangel," (a *chief* angel and considered to be the Angel of War) did not rail on Satan. He points out that Michael instead used the Lord's authority and rebuked him. We need to understand that we have no power to thwart or combat the enemy in ourselves. All that we have is found in His power and authority—"The blood of Jesus is against you, Satan; and, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

*Jude 11—Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of
Cain,
and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished
in the gainsaying of Core.*

"Woe unto them!" Jude declares. He says grief is coming their way because: (I John 2:15-17):

- 1) They have acted according to their own design and desires, like Cain.
- 2) Cain's initial grievance, his jealousy, and his ultimate act of selfishness (murder)

stemmed from his own presumptuous plan and act to worship God in his own way.

Such thinking has been captured in the refrain of a certain song, which proclaims, "...and I did it my way." Cain's way, which is the way of *self*, will lead to destruction.

- 3) They have reasoned from circumstances and human logic (and, have sought personal gain and glory), like Balaam (Numbers 22-24), who was not only willing, but also sought God and actually went to curse God's children simply because of what he had judged from what he had seen or heard.

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Balak's messenger had said, "Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me," Numbers 22:5, 6.

4) They have also been contradictory and contentious, like Core (Korah, Numbers 16).

They have refused to admit the value, worth, authority, or position of others. Pride, rebellion, and jealousy have been their adversary.

Jude 12,13—*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

Jude describes these crafty, presumptuous gainsayers, false teachers as: "Spots in your feasts of charity," "clouds...without water," "trees whose fruit withereth," "raging waves of the sea," and "wandering stars."

What is the meaning of this imagery?

What does Jude mean by these word pictures?

They depict the treacherous nature and instability of false teachers.

The word *spots* should not be confused with *soil* or *blemishes*. This term denotes a *ledge* or *reef of rock* in the sea. In other words, these men are like those hidden rocks that cause ships to wreck even though they are close to shore (home, harbor, safety) and without any consideration of the fact that you are sacrificing for the benefit of others "feasts of charity". They are as dangerous in the church as hidden rocks are in the ocean.

Jude's second word picture refers to them as resembling or appearing to be something that they are not. It also refers to their changeable and undependable nature that is like the clouds, which are blown about by wind.

Word picture number three portrays them to be like trees that have been blown over by a storm. The leaves have dried up and blown away, the fruit still hangs on the branch but it has shriveled up, and the tree itself is dead because it has been "plucked up by the roots." Many lessons might be drawn from this word picture but here are just a few:

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- They are not good for shade (protection from the heat of life.)
- They are not useful as landmarks because they have been uprooted.
- They are not dependable as a source of sustenance.

Then, he pictures them as the churning, foaming, even wildly raging “waves of the sea.” False teachers can be very dangerous to those who are carried about by the tumult, but, to the person who stands safely on shore (The Rock) the “raging” of the false is merely boisterous noise. It is the noise they make that deceives the unwary and ultimately drowns them in deceptions.

Lastly, Jude presents them as “stars” or *planets* that roam across the sky. Over time this term came to mean *an erratic teacher*.

Verses fourteen to nineteen continue with Jude’s vivid description of false teachers and God’s judgment on them and on those who are duped by them.

Finally, Jude closes with words of praise to God and with wise counsel to those who want to do more than just “hold the fort.” If you want to be a member of the *special forces* (storm trooper, commando) Conqueror, Overcomer you need to:

- 1) Perfect as a saint.(v.14)
- 2) Establish and strengthen yourself in the faith. (like a weight trainer)
- 3) Pray in the Holy Ghost.
- 4) Keep yourself in the love of God. (You can be loyal to truth and yet lack love.)
- 5) Recognize the mercy of God at work in your life and in others.
- 6) Have compassion on some. (Many will not let you help them.)
- 7) Be friend enough to others to tell them just like it is, plainly.
- 8) Remember that it is only Jesus who can keep us from falling.
- 9) Know that He will “present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”
- 10) **Give “to the only wise God our Saviour...glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever.”**